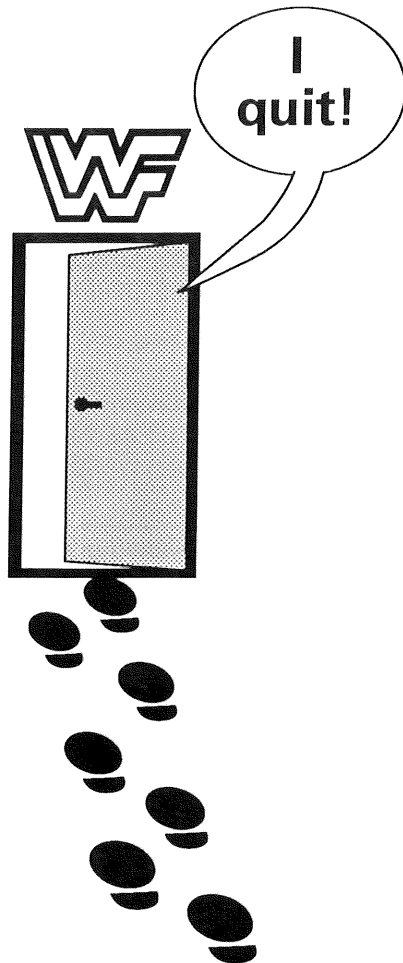
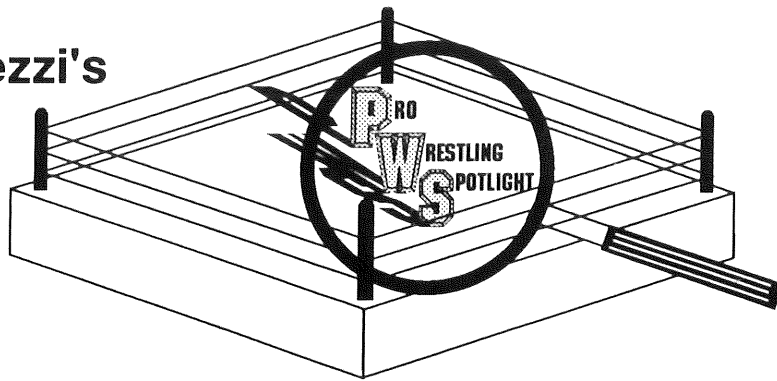




## Sid Walks Out

Sid Justice, following a match with the Ultimate Warrior in Boston, Massachusetts on Sunday evening April 26, walked out of the arena apparently quitting the WWF.

From eyewitness accounts, PWS sources say, Justice and the Warrior began shouting at each other, and were exchanging blows outside the ring. Justice stormed into the dressing area yelling, "I don't need this", and quickly dressed and left the arena, followed by a number of WWF road agents and his long time friend Harvey Whippleman (Bruno Lauer). Sid was also quoted as saying, "I quit!" As he was leaving he said, "Tell Vince not to call me. I don't think this is going to work out."

Sid has reportedly been upset because he was instructed to put the Warrior over at various arenas during this current tour.

Justice has no-showed arenas since the Boston show, including TV tapings in Niagara Falls and Syracuse, New York, as well as the Nassau Coliseum on Long Island. Papa Shango has been taking Sid's place all week, losing to the Warrior.

The WWF has not released any statement, but does say Justice (Sid Eudy) has been suspended.

Sid has a long history of battles with front office personnel of the wrestling offices he has been employed by. He is also very injury prone. In 1989 he injured his rib and received a punctured lung in a match with the Steiner Brothers while in the NWA, and was out close to a year. He also tore a bicep in 1991 which kept him out of action for several months.

His attitude and injuries have made him a big question mark in the WWF, who were looking for him to become "the next Hulk Hogan."

There is no word on if and when he will return. One of the major stars in the WWF was quoted as saying, "We don't want him back. He's a cry baby. Very few of the boys like him."

## WWF Cancels Shows

The WWF has canceled four shows on it's current tour including Fresno, California (May 1st), Long Beach, California (May 2nd), San Francisco, California (May 3rd), and Jacksonville, Florida (May 4th). Sources say the shows were canceled due to very low advances. It could be the first time ever that four consecutive shows were canceled due to lack of ticket sales.

Another factor to be considered for the cancellation of at least one of the California shows, were the recent riots which have

### News Flash at Press Time

Number one seeded team, Rick and Scott Steiner won their third WCW World Tag Team Title Sunday May 3 in Chicago's UIC Pavilion against Dangerous Alliance members Bobby Eaton & Arn Anderson.

WCW is seeking possible legal action against former champion Lex Luger for breach of his contract with the organization. The WCW management is unhappy about Luger's many appearances on WWF television programs as well as his appearance at Wrestlemania VIII. Luger is a regular guest on the WB Bodystars program.

engulfed various California communities. But the tensions in the area did cool down by the day of the Long Beach show. Jacksonville, Florida, however, had no city unrest.

Other WWF troubles seem to be popping up in various cities. Reports say that Hulk Hogan vitamins have been pulled from shelves in Pennsylvania chain stores, Phar/Mors, and Drug Emporium due to recent negative publicity.

## Kamala Returns to WWF... Is Abby Due In?

Kamala, the Ugandin Head Hunter, has returned to the WWF. Kamala (James Harris) appeared at this past weeks WWF television tapings in Niagara Falls and Syracuse, New York. He will be managed by Harvey Whippleman, to form an alliance with Papa Shango, and will apparently feud with the Ultimate Warrior. Reliable sources also claim Abdullah the Butcher is due in to join this alliance. Steve Lambardi will play the role of "Friday", the assistant to Kamala.

## NWA Tag Tourney Match Up's Set

In what may prove to be a tournament to rival many of the successful Japan formatted shows, World Championship Wrestling will re-introduce the National Wrestling Alliance name June 16 on free TV. The first round of the NWA Tag Tournament takes place from Charleston, SC during the next TBS "Clash of the Champions."

Sixteen teams will participate, with the match-ups as follows:

|                                    |    |                                                        |
|------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| The Steiner Brothers               | VS | Magilito Perez<br>(son of Miguel Perez) &<br>El Borica |
| Chris Benoit<br>& Biff Wellington  | VS | Jushin "Thunder" Liger<br>& Brian Pillman              |
| Steve Williams<br>& Terry Gordy    | VS | The O'Days<br>(from Australia)                         |
| Joe & Dean Malenko                 | VS | Ricky Steamboat<br>& Nikita Koloff                     |
| Hiroshi Hase<br>& Akira Nogami     | VS | The Headhunters<br>(from Puerto Rico)                  |
| The Silver King's<br>(from Mexico) | VS | The Freebirds                                          |
| Bobby Eaton<br>& Arn Anderson      | VS | Dustin Rhodes<br>& Barry Windham                       |
| Rick Rude<br>& Steve Austin        | VS | Tom Zenk<br>& Marcus Bagwell                           |

Winners of this first round will then compete for the NWA Tag Team titles on the July 12 Great American Bash Pay Per View show from Philadelphia. The tournament will be an annual event, similar to Japan's new wrestling IWGP tournament.

## I Know You Are But What Am I?

I recently taped a cable TV show on Long Island on the WWF sex scandals. The host of the program, Joel Martin, requested someone from the WWF to appear on the show. WWF PR hotshot, Steve Plantamenta, sent a response to the show which said in effect, "We decline to appear on your program due to the booking of one of your guests, John Arezzi. As you will soon find out, John Arezzi does not know what he is talking about. The WWF does not have to answer to anything John Arezzi has to say."

Once again, here is a situation where the WWF would rather keep the issue personal than address the allegations.

Fans in the Long Island area can watch the program on Cablevision of Suffolk - TV6, which covers Islip, Smithtown and Brookhaven Townships.

Friday May 22- 9:30PM

## Interview with Teddy Long

By John Arezzi

A few weeks back I got a call from Teddy Long. Teddy, as most of you know, was at one time a manager in the WCW, working with Doom (Ron Simmons & Butch Reed), Johnny B. Badd, The Sky Scrapers (Dan Spivey & Sid Viscous), and others. His style and articulate manner made him one of my favorites. Recently, Teddy has been getting more active with community projects in the WCW as well as doing limited announcing work. I spoke to Teddy about his current situation.

**JA:** Teddy, what is your role in the WCW right now?

**TL:** Basically, what I'm doing is some TV announcing. I'm on the syndicated show with Eric Rishoff, now that my character has turned, and I've been going to a lot of housing projects in Atlanta Georgia. We've just started to do this all over. I'm going to a lot of elementary schools, lots of boys clubs. I'm talking to a lot of the Black kids, letting them know that I was raised in the projects. That's where I come from, so I thought I needed to go back and let the home boys know that I haven't forgotten about them. I'm seeing the kids, giving them a lot of WCW merchandise. I'm taking along a lot of WCW stars with me like the JYD, Z-Man, Johnny B. Badd, Ron Simmons, even the Steiner's have made a few visits with me. I'm gonna be a positive role model for the fans. Now that they've seen the old Teddy Long, I'm not gonna be "The New" Teddy Long, I'm gonna be "The Real" Teddy Long.

**JA:** This campaign to visit the projects and underprivileged kids is a good one. Whose idea was it?

**TL:** I sat down and had a long talk with Kip Frey, and to be honest, it was my idea. I went over it with Kip and he wanted to get behind it 100%. He thought it was a great idea and said it was something that should have been done five years ago.

**JA:** Perhaps this should have been done a long time ago. Maybe delivering this message to the Black community will have a residual effect and bring some of these fans back to the arenas, those who left a long time ago.

**TL:** I hope so. We're also telling the kids to stay off drugs,

how important it is to stay in school, get an education and mainly to obey your parents and listen to your teachers. If you get involved with athletics and athletic competition, and want to be a football or basketball star you don't have to do it with steroids.

**JA:** What does WCW have to do to get the fans back into the arenas?

**TL:** That's hard for me to answer. I'm not the booker or the man in charge. Basically, what is happening now is heading towards the right direction. Under the leadership of Kip Frey things have gotten better. He seems to have a great concern with the business. He's real interested in not only the White WCW fans but the Black fans as well. He's gone out to the housing projects with me. He has had the chance to see what it's like out there, I know he intends to do the right thing to get the fans back.

**JA:** I've had the chance to work with Johnny B. Badd on a couple of promotions. Here's a guy who has burst on the scene over the past year. He really worked hard, not only to create a great character, but to work hard on his skills in the ring. He really seems to be a catalyst in giving something back to the fans after they've paid their ticket money. He spends a great deal of time signing autographs and spending time with the fans. Do you think more of the guys should be that way?

**TL:** Yes, I do. I think all of our wrestlers should involve themselves and get out there in the community and seeing the fans. Everybody should do that. There might be some kid at home and sees his favorite WCW star on TV, and that's as far as it goes. Maybe he can't afford a ticket to a live show. Maybe all of the WCW stars should go out and get involved with some type of community project.

**JA:** As far as Teddy Long goes, you've been one of the best managers I've seen, starting back in 1989, and I'm disappointed that your role as a manager has been eliminated. You used to fire the crowd up. Do you miss managing?

**TL:** Yes, I do, but in a way I don't. I've made a name for myself in WCW. Even though I'm not featured any more as a manager, I'm still announcing on a syndicated show. I had a great time as a manager. Hopefully one day I'll have the opportunity to manage again. Who knows? I'd like to do it once again, maybe even with The Steiner's. I could get involved with The Junkyard Dog, or Ron Simmons. Just because my character has changed his ways doesn't mean I can't manage. It's up to the WCW. I'll do whatever the WCW wants me to do.

I got the feeling that Teddy yearns to return to managing. It wouldn't be a bad idea in my opinion.

Don't Forget to Listen to the  
**Pro Wrestling Spotlight**  
Every Sunday night on  
**WEVD 1050 AM 10 - 11pm**  
**LISTEN AND LEARN**

*This interview is reprinted with permission from the 4/14/92 edition of "Three Count" newsletter, published by Alex Marvez.*

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## SPOTLIGHT ON JOHN AREZZI

by Alex Marvez

In an amazing twist of irony, a man named Vince has almost caused the downfall of John Arezzi's Pro Wrestling Spotlight empire. Only this Vince wasn't Vince McMahon, the World Wrestling Federation owner who Arezzi has lambasted for years on his Pro Wrestling Spotlight radio show—regarded as the nations leading wrestling radio show and one of the most ardent followers of the WWF's steroid and sexual abuse story. A split between Vince Russo, Arezzi's former business partner, and wrestling radio's "round mound of sound" has left the future of the Pro Wrestling Spotlight radio show and newsletter in jeopardy. Russo just produced his first issue of the newsletter without Arezzi, but the finished product bared no resemblance to Spotlight's first 12 issues. Russo has taken a pro-WWF stance, calling newsletter writers "liars" for their coverage of the WWF. Whether Arezzi's Spotlight show will air April 19 on WEVD in New York is uncertain for financial reasons. After that, the future is even more in doubt. In Part One of this two-part interview, Arezzi discusses his involvement with Russo, the switch from WGBB in the suburb of Babylon to WEVD in New York City and how the situation deteriorated to its current state.

**AM:** Let's begin by talking about how your relationship with Vince Russo began and what it deteriorated into.

**JA:** I met Vince last summer and approached him at his store, "Will The Thrill Video." He has two stores named after his son in New York. I was given the lead to contact him because he had previously arranged some personal appearances by WWF guys, and I figured he would be a good prospect to sponsor my show on WGBB. I made an appointment and sold him on the first one to sponsor the show. He wanted to bring in a few wrestlers for some personal appearances, but he had no money to bring in WWF performers. I got him the Honky Tonk Man and we did a promotion, which he was satisfied with, in July 1991. I tried to get other personalities there, but he began to drag his feet and I began concentrating on my convention. I got some video transfers from Madison Square Garden cards onto video tape, and he didn't charge me for these, saying I was a good guy, blah blah blah. In the fall, I began contacting him because I wanted to see if he would advertise for the Christmas season or maybe do some more appearances. He suggested that if I ever needed a place to dub any videos or cassettes, he would offer his services. At the time, I just got the Eddie Gilbert - Cactus Jack video (which Arezzi sold through Pro Wrestling Spotlight), and had Vince do the dubbing.

He started approaching me last fall with the possibility of getting involved with the company because he wanted to get into the wrestling business. I said that was fine. I didn't know him at all, but he was a business man, seemed fairly successful, intelligent and was a wrestling fan. He seemed like a nice guy. He pushed to get involved with handling merchandise and talked about the possibility of starting a newsletter. I had been informed (former *Matwatch* editor) Steve Beverly was giving it up, and a lot of people said I should start a newsletter

to try to fill that void. Vince had a journalism degree (from Indiana State), and always wanted to get in the business. I started to listen to him a little more intently, but something in my gut didn't feel right about him, especially when he began to seriously talk. He said he wanted to transfer the newsletter production to his place of business and work from there. In the wrestling business, you don't trust too many people. I've been burnt a few times when people wanted to be partners in my conventions and they had ulterior motives. They wanted to get in the business, get on camera and use their contacts to get where they wanted to go. I was apprehensive when he said we had to get off WGBB if we were going to do the newsletter because WGBB had such a limited audience in broadcasting out of Babylon. It was a small watt station, but I reached a lot of people with it. Ironically, at the same time, I was talking to WEVD about moving over, but I thought the cost for an hour (\$1,053), was too expensive. He said we should make a move, and I said I really don't want to do it. WGBB extended me an awful lot of credit through my lean times, more than \$7,000. But he had these grand ideas about the newsletter, and he enticed me. Then he said he just wanted me to concentrate on the creative end of the show, getting guests and things. He wanted to take over the advertising. He said between myself and his partner, we would be able to get a lot of sponsors in the city. He said he knew a ton of people who would advertise with us on WEVD, but not on WGBB because he couldn't pick it up from where he lived.

He started calling WEVD, and they said they would work with us. He was starting at that point to try and take over, even back then. This set off alarms in my head, but I didn't follow through. I was in a bad situation. I had been extended as much credit as WGBB would allow, and they weren't going to allow me on the air unless I paid my bill. But WGBB said they were going to hold two benefits for me to help pay back my debt. I told Vince, because he said he was going to put up the initial money to get on WEVD, at least \$2,000. I told Vince they were going all out to keep me, doing what they can to help me pay off my back debt and keep me on the air. He said I was never going to get anywhere unless I go to New York City. He said he wouldn't invest on WGBB. He had pushed me into a corner, but he seemed really gung ho, so I said I would give it a shot. He really seemed like a go-getter, and I got tired of being a one-man operation, trying to do the advertising, doing the show and filling the advertising orders. He said he would take care of it, and we shook hands on the deal Christmas week. We were to start on WEVD January 5, but one thing that was really strange happened when we were putting together our first newsletter to coincide with the debut of the radio show. He said we were obviously going to have a full-page ad for the newsletter. On that, he said he would like it to be the Pro Wrestling Spotlight radio hour hosted by John Arezzi and Vince Russo. Initially, I said yes, but it just ate away at my stomach until I said, "Fuck, I'm not going to do this." I called him back to tell him I didn't want to be part of that situation. I told him I would bring him on each week to talk about the newsletter as part of his participation. He apologized for trying to be too big for his britches.

**AM:** You broke a lot of anti-WWF stories on your show. How did Vince react to that?

**JA:** Previously, he loved the show. He never indicated one way or the other I was doing anything wrong or reporting anything irritating to him in any way. He always questioned why no WWF people were on program, and I said we would have to do it either my way or no way. The only WWF guest

we ever had on was Fred Blassie. Once you report anything negative on the WWF, they are going to shut the channel of communication anyway. I gave Russo (WWF spokesman) Steve Plantamenta's phone number. I told him he tells me nothing but lies. He doesn't confirm anything or give me anything but lies. I told him that if he wanted to try to get through to him he could call. We started putting out the newsletter, we had David Shults and Billy Graham on our first show with all the explosive stuff they said, the *New York Post* writes about your stuff, and we're off and running. Well, the newsletter is a lot more difficult than I thought it would be and took a lot longer to produce than I thought. The \$1,053 was also hard to raise, especially without any sponsors. Russo did not do what he said he was going to as far as sponsorship. We made a few calls together, but as far as his shoe-in with major advertisers, nothing ever developed.

I also got his material for the first newsletter and said uh-oh, because he was writing on a level I find insulting to my intelligence. I began to wonder what the fans were going to think. He started changing when the partnership was formed, and that's one thing I don't want to bypass. I let him and the listeners know all the time about the financial situation I was in. I was in debt from the previous convention, and had a debt for \$50,000 since I got back in the wrestling business in 1989. When we decided upon the name "Pro Wrestling Spotlight Enterprises," he wanted to do it legally and get the name incorporated. I said there was a chance I may file personal bankruptcy because I was buried by bills. Vince's lawyer said he didn't think it was wise to put my name on the incorporation forms, because my creditors may come after the corporation. So we put Vince as the sole stockholder, and I would have nothing initially on the corporation. Maybe that's why I'm \$50,000 in debt. I consider myself a good journalist and I do a good radio show, but I have not proven to be the best business man in the world.

Later into January, I'm really having a hard time with his writing, not to mention the redundancy, simplicity and stupidity of some of the things he was writing about, especially his TV columns. I wondered what the listeners and readers would say when they looked at this crap. Sure enough, I started getting phone calls. People were really enjoying some parts (of the newsletter), but asking where the hell did I get Vince Russo. He wasn't very entertaining to read. I figured we must be getting a lot of negative letters, but I never saw them. That's something else that irritated me. We were getting a stack of mail from listeners and newsletter readers each week, because we were picking up 40-50 new subscribers a week, but he kept everything real secretive. To his office from my home was a good hour drive, so I would only go once or twice a week. I would never see any of the mail when I went. He said we got a lot of letters, but people were not really writing to us about what we were writing in the newsletter. He said he would give me a whole box of letters, but he never did. As I was doing the show each week, I noticed his ego was starting to get bigger and bigger and bigger.

Then he announced that he had discovered a wrestler that he wanted to put through wrestling school. I said I didn't want any part of that. I know the business, and I didn't want to be involved in that way. I have enough of my own problems. I was in the rock and roll business, and I managed bands and singers. I don't want to have to play baby-sitter or look out for someones welfare and future. He said he was going to take him to Johnny Rodz's wrestling school. He acquired some phone numbers from me when he was trying to do things to set up interviews. So he finds a big black guy with blue eyes

named Bo Davis. First, Vince agrees to trade advertising for training this guy. Then he said, "I'm gonna be in the school too. I'm gonna be a manager. This is gonna be great. I'm gonna start writing a column for the newsletter called Making of a Champion." Little things like this really started getting to me.

Now the WWF scandal is really starting to break, and he really gets irritated when we didn't talk for a few days when I was working on stories. He called me to ask what was happening. I didn't share too much of that with him because I felt it was too serious to share with someone who has only been in the business for a couple of months. But in February, I'm starting to enjoy the newsletter more each week. I finally got him to curtail his stupid TV columns, but his "Where Are They Now" interviews were good. Each week, he wanted more and more power. When we got involved with the partnership, I said I needed \$500 a week to pay for my personal expenses. My phone bill was never under \$400, and my rent is \$800. He said he would take care of my personal expenses before putting the money in his pocket, but I have never seen any money. When I handled the advertising, all the money went in my checking account instead of in the pot. At least I was able to pay my bills. When we first got started, I didn't pay my rent for two months.

I figure I'm going to get taken to court any day to be evicted. I signed three or four advertisers and took \$2,000 to pay my bills early on. That's all I got out of the company since my association with Vince over a four month period of time. The newsletter money was coming in, and I wanted to know every week what we were spending. It's like pulling teeth as far as that went. The newsletter mail, booster club news...everything was coming to his address. I'm not accusing him of stealing, but I needed to know what was happening. I was more and more frustrated every week, and I was getting irate calls from friends of mine. "How come you're not answering our letters or printing them? Can't you take any criticism?" In March, with the scandals about to break, Vince was having a more and more difficult time getting through to Plantamenta. He got through after Issue Six, which had McMahon's name on a tombstone on the cover. Vince (Russo) wanted an interview with Chief Jay Strongbow, who was his favorite wrestler. Steve said, "Why should I do anything with you guys? One week you have us on a tombstone, and the next week you want us to give you Chief Jay Strongbow?"

Vince taped the conversation and played it back for me. But on this tape, Vince started telling Steve that it was John Arezzi saying those things, not Pro Wrestling Spotlight. "I'm only half of this. I don't agree with what the other newsletter guys said," Vince said. "I'm not a sheet writer. I'm an entertainment critic. I think we've gone too overboard with some of your coverage." Plantamenta said he would think about Vince's request and get back to him. After not hearing from Steve, Russo called again to try to get the interview. I gave him Strongbow's home number, but they hung up on him. That week, Vince wrote a scathing editorial on Plantamenta on why he couldn't interview Strongbow. I read it and said this was the best thing he had ever written, because this one really came from the heart. But he pulls it from the newsletter. He has second thoughts and doesn't run it. He said you have to give the guy a second chance. He revamped it to run later, but it appeared nothing like it was initially.

**AM:** When was the final blow-up and how did it happen?

**JA:** March 15 was an explosive show because it was the weekend of the *Donohue* deal. I had a real big problem with

Vince and the typesetters of the newsletter because I did a "Mat Memory" on Plantamenta, and it mysteriously disappeared. I couldn't get any straight answers. I didn't want to get censored in my own newsletter, and that was beginning to happen. In the back of my head, I remember this conversation we had where he said the WWF is still what readers want, and not to worry about the 5,000 hard-core fans because you're not going to make any money just focusing on hard-core fans. I said maybe we still could give inside information, but not totally expose the business. We could still probably make more money by putting a WWF wrestler on the cover and still give the casual fan more information than he ever had before.

Anyway, Vince says he wants to give Plantamenta another shot. I said he's not going to want anything to do with us, especially with the way the newsletter covers are. I got wind of a steroid symposium that was supposed to take place at the Plaza Hotel March 24th. I was informed of it the Sunday before it was scheduled to take place, and I said I'd like to go. I was told by a friend of mine that I was not going to be let in if I showed up. I decided to go anyhow. The day before the symposium, I talked to Vince Russo about it. I said I was going to crash it, and that's how we left it. I got a call from Vince in the afternoon, and he said he just got off the phone with Steve. They had a long conversation, and Steve decided to send us a video tape of the symposium to work with us halfway. I said that was fine, but I was still going to go. He didn't say anything. As all this is going on, the wheels are starting to turn at Titan Sports, because they saw that we were not a team, that I'm the bad guy and Vince tries to portray the WWF as truth, justice and the American way. I guess they saw it, and Vince gets a second call from Plantamenta inviting him to the symposium. They said Vince McMahon himself had invited him, but they would only let him go if he came alone. I felt I should go and cover it. He got a little upset, and maybe I acted like a kid, too. We called in a mediator - Dave Meltzer. He said this was a situation where the WWF was going to try to divide-and-conquer us. I was in no mood to fight, so I decided I wouldn't go, but at least we would get the story through Vince.

I didn't hear from Russo all day Tuesday. I figure this was a big enough story that I should hear from the guy, so I decided to play devil's advocate. He never called. The next day he calls me and says we have to talk, and would I come into the office. I was ripping inside because I felt the WWF was using us, and I didn't know what their motive was. Russo told me we really had these guys (the WWF) by the balls. He said they laid out the red carpet for him at the symposium. He started talking all this stuff about (Dr. Mario) DiPasquale and other bullshit. He said he was sitting there with (WWF spokesman) Steve Plantamenta, and it was really nice having lunch with Linda and Shane McMahon (Vince McMahon's wife and son, respectively) and they were really nice people. He said Vince even came over and talked to him for half an hour. I asked what they discussed. He said Vince told him that we don't realize how much fun a wrestling radio show can be. I asked what does that mean, and he said, "John, this is our chance. We need the WWF to make money. We've been spinning our wheels for four months, not making any money." I tried to pry even further, and he said they want to meet with us and work together. Russo said they talked about a possible promotion with Prime Time Wrestling. I said, "You don't understand. I don't trust them. They just want us off the air. They're going to try to fuck us one way or the other." Russo then said I had done all I could covering this story and it was time to drop the ball and "let other people cover this crap and start to make some money." I'm reading between the lines and see some-



thing happened at the meeting that I'm not happy about. I told him to set up a meeting to see what this is all about. I was ready to blast these people if they offered us money. Russo had a smile from ear to ear, and I left the office thinking I've got Judas with me and I don't know what to do. I called Dave (Meltzer, editor of The Wrestling Observer Newsletter) and told him everything that was going on. He told me I was dead in the water. He said the WWF had got their hooks into him.

On Thursday I got a call from Russo, who said he had booked DiPasquale on the show for that Sunday night. I said, "Oh, yeah? Well fine." We were also going to have another guest on the show, but I kind of got the feeling that how he got DiPasquale on so fast had to be through Titan Sports. I said it was alright, and I would get the literature on the symposium. This didn't sit right with me. He didn't even consult with me before booking him. It was Vince trying to take over even more. On Friday morning, the shit hit the fan. My head was swimming with all that was going on. I began to feel everything I was working for was slowly being taken away. But there was no way I was going to get into bed with the devil, no matter if I was broke. There was no way he was going to get to me by paying me off. That morning, Russo calls me and said that because he got DiPasquale booked for Sunday's show, he wanted equal time. I asked him why, and he said he wanted to talk about (*New York Post* columnist) Phil Mushnick and how unfair his reporting has been. He brought up the column where Mushnick compared McMahon to Hannibal Lector, and said that was a personal attack against Vince. I said he was not going to give an editorial on the air, but if he wanted to debate Phil on the radio, it was fine with me. Phil is the only guy in the mainstream media with enough balls to follow the story and write it the way it is. So he said it was alright to do a debate.

Shortly after, I think he read the *Post* with Phil's column about the symposium, because Vince calls back five minutes later screaming at me about "how could I feed this guy all these lies on the WWF symposium?" I told him I didn't go to the symposium, that we were supposed to be partners on the same team, and not to ever accuse me of that again. I wasn't even there. So I said I was going to get Mushnick on the phone and clarify the situation. I get both of them on a three-way call. I asked Phil where he got the information in his column from, and he said it was from a *USA Today* reporter he talked to. Vince then started lashing into Mushnick about how he personally attacked McMahon. They started getting into an argument, and as soon as Mushnick began to defend himself, Vince hung up on both of us. I called Vince back and said I was going into the office. I said to myself that I had to get rid of this guy right now because he's a monster. I didn't know what was going to happen, but Vince was certainly someone I did not want to be responsible for.

I went and picked up my brother-in-law as a witness because I was going to break up the partnership. We got there, sat down, and I told Vince I didn't want to be associated with him anymore. He says, "You know, you're broke now, and you're going to be broke for the rest of your life. You're missing an opportunity here that will never happen again. You've been in the wrestling business for years, and you never make any money. Oh, and by the way, I own the name "Pro Wrestling Spotlight." I said that if the name means that much to him, he could have it. Later on I changed my mind, because it was the name I had been using for the past 17 years. Vince then crumbles up a *New York Post*, throws it at me and walks out of his own video store. I'm sitting there shaking my head, and I begin to pick up my stuff and leave. I was trying to get him back into the building so he could see I was just taking my personal

stuff, but he just left.

I get back to the house and I start getting calls from WEVD saying Vince called there saying that our partnership was over, he's not associated with the show and he wants to take a two-week hiatus and return with an all-new show. Vince said he could get some WWF guys on. I said, "This is my show. How can you listen to this guy when he's not the host of the show?" But I was lucky because I had signed the final contract between Pro Wrestling Spotlight and the station. After much talk with the station, they agreed to renew my contract that Sunday night and give me exclusivity with the only wrestling radio show on the station, and the option to renew every month. It worked out by the grace of God. Russo and I had a cordial conversation before I went on the air Sunday. I asked if I could get my mailing list and he said he would have to think about it. We got former Matwatch editor Steve Beverly's mailing list, but Steve has never received a penny so far. Fortunately, I got most of the names back through the back up system I had.

On March 29, I got a call from Bob Raissman, who wanted to write a story for the next day in the *New York Daily News*. After the story came out (March 31), I called Russo up for copies of the double issue all about the steroid scandal. It was the one I was most proud of. It looked nothing like what it was supposed to be. Incidentally, he didn't send it to any of the sheet writers or send any samples. He sent to subscribers only. It really freaked me out.

**AM:** What happens to all the people who paid for a subscription basically to read your views and are stuck with Vince's newsletter?

**JA:** I feel sorry for them. I'm going to try to make amends in some way. He said he was going to continue on with the newsletter. I'm fighting for the name Pro Wrestling Spotlight back. I had to buy Issue 12 at the newsstand. About the 450 subscribers we had, I've decided to offer anyone with a subscription up to three months free of my newsletter if they send me a copy of a canceled check or money order.

**AM:** Could you elaborate further on Issue 13? (The one Vince put out)

**JA:** The cover is headlined, "Who is the real monster?" and has two kids running away from Barry Orton, myself and other members of the media. A reporter wearing a *New York Post* hat is saying, "Listen you kids...I know it's not true but I need a story." (Referring to the incidents of sexual molestation claimed by former WWF ring boy Tom Cole) I got a copy, and all I could feel was...not even anger, but I was very sad, because this guy is a very pathetic case. The newsletter should have been written by Vince McMahon. He blasts Raissman from the *Daily News*, and Dave Meltzer. He did a whole story on Phil Mushnick, calling Phil a liar. He said the lying and deceit from his so-called colleagues in the newsletter field was too much for him to handle.

**AM:** Have you been able to gauge a reaction from former Spotlight readers toward the new format?

**JA:** On that Saturday, my phone was ringing all day. "Did you see what Judas wrote?" some of them said. I got calls throughout Saturday and Sunday with people seething mad at this guy. I did a live remote from the Press Box Cafe in Brooklyn (April 12) with Johnny B. Badd. I was getting ready to make the introduction to the show when the whole crowd starts chanting

"Russo sucks." It shocked the shit out of me. That's just the sentiment of the fans. The outpouring of support I've gotten about this whole thing...

I poured my heart out that night about the break-up, and my phone was ringing non-stop for the next two days. The letters I've gotten have been tremendous. I never anticipated that amount of response. I feel very low and cheap when I ask people to send money. It makes me feel worthless. I think I put on an entertaining product. I give people what they want. One good thing is that professional people listen to this show from a good demographic background. There is a melting pot of people in the entertainment and corporate fields who love the type of information I provide for them. They do what they can to support us. Unfortunately, they are about two percent of the audience that listens in.

A lot of people may think in the back of their minds that I'm crying wolf. They won't realize I'm not until the airwaves are blank for a few weeks and the Vince Russo show is on the air. This is a very questionable time for me. I'm tired of asking for money. I don't want to do it anymore. I want to get advertisers and sponsors for my show.

## THE WRESTLING MENU

By *DONNY LAIBLE*

What famous masked man in the ring, before wearing the hood, wrestled under the name Bruce Marshall? Hang around for the answer.

Looks like it's time to call the corporate undertaker to haul away what's still known as the Global Wrestling Federation. With "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert no longer in the office or the ring, funds being pumped in to keeping it alive must be down to pennies. All the best of luck to Skandor Akbar in attempting to keep the promotion operational. Wow, what a nose dive the GWF has taken. Think back to the inaugural show last year, what an array of talent.

I take to illnesses of promotions in a bad way. The American Wrestling Association was one of my favorites. Back in the early 1980's, Verne Gagne had one hell of a roster which included The Road Warriors, Curt Hennig, Bockwinkel, Ray Stevens, Zbyszko and Slaughter...While I'm on a nostalgia kick...You call it - Who would win in a pro & amateur contest, Bob Backlund or Pez Whatly? And just who is Andre the Giant's opponent going to be for his Mexico bookings? Why not Soloman "Norman" Grindy?

Reader Joe Puccio wants to know the whereabouts of Moondog Rex, and if at one time there were 4 members of Demolition. All I can remember are Ax, Smash and Crush. Am I hearing things, or do The Warlord and Big Van Vader have the same interview coach? Arn Anderson gives one hell of an interview. I realize that isn't anything new, but he has to be one of the best talkers of all time, along with Wild Red Berry and Pedro Morales. Gotcha, only kidding (about one of the two). Guess which one!

That old Buck Robley seems to have more lives in wrestling than a cat. Hopefully he can get a TV show in Louisiana. With names as Valentine, Orndorff, Orton, Horner and Gibson, surely they should draw respectable ratings...On the last set of WWF tapes done in Florida, was the guy using Sandy Beach as his ring name, LOD Animal's brother? Red alert, autograph collectors. Dory Funk, Jr. has been reported as to have not been returning items for signature. Anyone have an address on "Beautiful" Bobby Harmon of WWWF fame during the early 1970's? To show you how the business has changed over the

years, I could remember seeing Joe Turko and Pancho Valdez take a cab from the Edison Hotel in Midtown Manhattan in the early '70's head to the Port Authority bus terminal and hop on a Trailways to Philly for the tapings. Could you picture, say, Davey Boy Smith getting on a Greyhound from Boston to Hartford.

Now here's a memorable handicap match (when was the last time you saw one of those?) from Asbury Park, New Jersey - Gorilla Monsoon VS Juan Caruso and Bull Pometti. Hey, I'd still pay to see it. The next time you see Stan Hansen, say "Blue Jay" to him, and let me know what happens.

## Plug City

Vic Stanley publishes a newsletter - SCREWJOB FINISH at \$2.50 per copy, it's like nothing you've ever seen before (I think, so give it a try and be prepared to laugh your butt off.) Contact Vic at P.O. Box 176, Lafayette, Indiana 47902-0176. WRESTLING PERSPECTIVE - Paul MacArthur, P.O. Box 401, Camillus, New York 13031-0401 at \$1.25 per issue...WRESTLING THEN AND NOW - Evan Ginzburg, P.O. Box 471, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing, New York 11364. Evans has put out a yearbook entitled "A Salute To The Great Territories", for \$7.00 - an unbelievably fantastic job...WRESTLING CHATTERBOX - Georgiann Markopoulos, 23-44 30th Drive, Astoria, New York 11102-3252 for \$2.50 a copy...ARENA REPORT sells for \$1.00. Issues can be received from P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, Florida 32795.

Bruce Marshall later was known as the Sensational Destroyer (Dick Beyer). At the start of Koko B. Ware's career at some point did he use the name Lefty Powell for the Gulas promotion?

Remember, if you have any questions about yesteryear or wrestling today, I want to hear from you. See ya next week - Donny Laible, P.O. Box 443, Ilion, New York 13357.

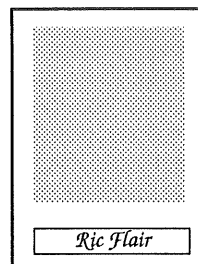
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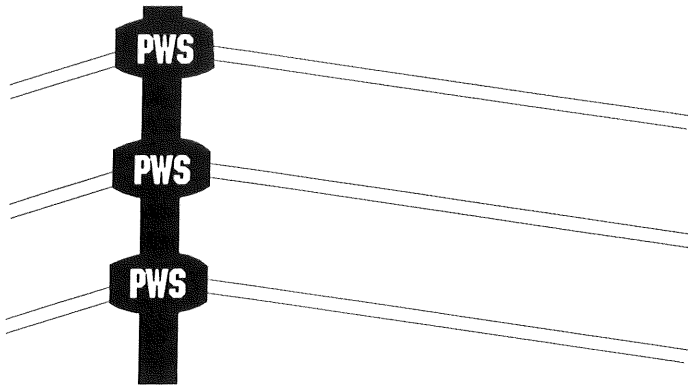
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Ed. note: This letter was sent out to Vince Russo for publication. As of yet it has not been printed, therefore we have decided to run it here in John Arezzi's Pro Wrestling Spotlight Newsletter.

Dear Vince,

I have a few thoughts on your five pages of self-justification disguised as the primary editorial content of PWSW No.13. For a man who claims not to have beaten his breast about his integrity, you sure did a good imitation of Jim Bakker.

Your lead piece on the WWF steroid policy announcement was pretty straight forward. Granted, it was one-sided (Titan Sports side). Perhaps you need more background information. I don't mean to compare you to Dave Meltzer, who has been covering the subject for only six years or so. Dave did not attend the press conference, for reasons only he knows. Maybe they invited him at such a late juncture that they knew there was no way he could make it in time. In any case, Mr. Meltzer found the time to speak to Dr. DiPasquale and grill him on his claims. Primarily, that he himself can't beat the steroid test he's created. Then again, Dr. DiPasquale is also the man who wrote, "There is no steroid test that can't be beaten." Two quotes, contradictory though they might be, from the same man.

Your "Ten Points of Light" piece was quite enlightening. Just what do you think is going on here? Some kids getting their hands slapped for taking candy from a baby? You ask, "What exactly did Vince McMahon do to deserve the comparison to Hannibal Lector?" Was it promoting steroid and other drug abuse? No, it was for overlooking it. Was it for promoting child endangerment and sexual abuse? No, it was for overlooking it. He deserves the comparison for booking angles based on national tragedies, such as the Persian Gulf War. You say you have two young children who now ask how many wrestlers are gay? Did your children also ask you why Jake Roberts was allowed to sic his snake so it bit Randy Savage? Or why the Ultimate Warrior was locked in a coffin? Or why Jake Roberts slapped Elizabeth? These examples may be the result of burnout, but the cumulative effect is one of a man who does not care about the sensibilities of others. In that way, Vince McMahon readily deserves the comparison to Hannibal Lector.

I compare the recent (summer 1991-present) news breaking of steroids, cocaine, molestation and rape to the release of Jim Bouton's *Ball Four* in 1970. While considered tame by today's standards, Bouton's baseball career came to a halt shortly

after its release and he has yet to be invited back to an Old-timer's day at Yankee Stadium (shades of Barry Orton). Bouton revealed how the players slept with anything that moved, guzzled and snorted whatever they got their hands on, and generally acted like young men who ruled the world. For telling all, he was reviled. Any number of best-selling sports books since then owe a great debt to Jim Bouton for leading the way. These were things which were going on, which credible, to use your terminology, journalists knew about and did not cover. How do you think Hulk Hogan would have stood up to coverage as severe as the media surrounding Doc Gooden, David Cone and the rest of the Mets this spring? Your claim that his cocaine abuse in 1983 isn't a big deal because it happened nine years ago is invalid because it was backed up factually by two sources. What is happening now in wrestling happened in baseball 20 years ago. The wealth of information coming forth is from those who are relieved to get the chance to let their side be heard. Is Rita Marie's claim of rape any less valid because she waited until her parents passed away so as not to drag their feelings through the mud? The statute of limitations is up on that charge of rape. Does that make it any less valid? McMahon's driver at the time backed up the account. Does that mean it never happened, simply because it was five or six years ago?

Superstar Bill Graham is a man with a long history in the wrestling business. He definitely has an ax to grind with Vince McMahon. What is strange about him volunteering information on a nationally syndicated TV program is that he does not mention the previous night on WEVD radio. Total disclosure is one thing; divvying up the time between the panel of guests is another. Why hold it against Graham that his four minutes on *Donohue* included allegations not on your radio program? That smacks more of sour grapes than of dishonesty on his part.

Saying Phil Mushnick is not a journalist because he condemns Vince McMahon without ever having met him face-to-face is probably your most laughable claim. Almost as laughable as those who say no one can run a wrestling newsletter unless they've been in the ring themselves (the earliest criticism made against Dave Meltzer, who runs what you called the "New York Times of wrestling.") Does that mean I can't criticize President Bush's press conference because I've never met him? I can never write a nasty remark about Mario Lemieux of the Penguins because I've never met him? By your logic, there would be no film or TV columnists, political analysts, sportswriters, wrestling newsletters, etc. Get the picture?

Say what you want about the tone of Mushnick's pieces. He does call the WWF for responses. However, their policy has generally been to stick their heads in the sand and hope the reporters go away. When they don't, McMahon has his other denial tactic: "I never received that phone call."

I agree a WWF boycott will not work because the casual fans will never organize in numbers large enough to hurt the federation. Remember Chavez and the grapes boycott of the '70's? It was an effort to get more money for the migrant workers by improving conditions. While other produce companies were made to sweat, migrant workers were hurt. Sometimes these things happen to innocent people in order for those at the top to get the message.

This entire letter refutes another of your points, that McMahon is a great business man. Does your definition of a great business man preclude the exploitation of your employees to the extent that you (or your executives) sexually harass them, encourage steroid abuse and treat them and your paying customers like cattle?



Are any wrestlers in the WWF currently on steroids? There may be some trying to cycle down, but lets go back to DiPasquale: "If someone gains 40 pounds of muscle in two months..." Look at Davey Smith. Look at the Warlord. Look at Chris Walker. Look at J.W. Storm. Look at Sid Justice. Look at Lex Luger. These are "normal" physiques? These are drug-free physiques? Lex dropped out of sight for two months and showed up at *Super Brawl* blatantly 20-30 pounds heavier than at *Starcade*. He was so bloated he couldn't put on a 12 minute exhibition against his best friend, Sting. This is McMahon's future superstar. The Ultimate Warrior, the poster child for anabolic steroid abuse, returns because McMahon needs a pumped-up muscle head to fight muscle head Sid. These actions speak louder than the Titan press conference you present in your newsletter without questioning its veracity, choosing instead to attack those who try to analyze both sides of the issue.

Finally, I wholeheartedly dispute your portrait of John Arezzi as "a glory hound on a quest to hang Vince McMahon and the WWF." John started out three years ago merely breaking title changes and trying to get interviews with their performers. Even back then, Titan Sports deemed him dangerous, when all he was doing was pointing out, like the Observer, title changes before they actually occurred. He did not create these scandals, he reported on them. He didn't buy or sell the steroids that got Dr. Zahorian convicted. He went to the trial and told the public what happened, a public McMahon has constantly lied to on this matter. John Arezzi happened to be a man in the right place at the right time when Superstar Billy Graham and others decided to bring forth their accusations. Granted, it was a tidal wave of material. But the time span of the allegations (Orton 1978, Marie 1985, Karate Kid 1988, Billy Jack Haynes 1991), the breadth of the claims (sexual harassment, steroid abuse, rape, drug abuse) and the sheer volume tend to speak ill of McMahon no matter what percentage are true.

Did McMahon defend his employees? They fled guiltily, explained away as "not wanting to hurt the company's image anymore." Well, if they hadn't done anything, why didn't they stay and fight? If Tom Cole's charges weren't true, McMahon sure gave a great impression that they were by paying him off, putting him back to work and suing *Now It Can Be Told* to keep Cole's story off the air.

John Arezzi has not made any money off his efforts, yet he can be qualified as a true wrestling fan. He has strived for a truly honest forum, open to all viewpoints. You argue that John is slanted towards the WWF because he has not presented "their side," through a representative or callers speaking out for McMahon. Well, Titan Sports refuses to acknowledge John's show.

In the end, has it occurred to you that the reason no one has come to McMahon's defense is they're relieved that the onus has lifted and the truth is finally out? Much like baseball in the '70's, I feel that once the air is cleared, business will stabilize. Nine year olds will have their Undertaker Styrofoam coffins in the air during entrances. Whether or not Vince McMahon is around to enjoy this depends on how many more skeletons are left to be exhumed.

With Flair,  
Jeff Cohen  
Great Neck, NY

PS. In anticipation that this letter will not be published, I have sent a copy to the Observer, as well as to John Arezzi.

## Bagwell's Ballad

By Pete Theophall

This little rhyme is written  
With a story to tell  
About a wrestler named  
Marcus Alexander Bagwell!

He once was an exotic dancer  
With potential for Chippendale fame  
But instead, with Missy's prompting  
Took up the pro wrestling game!

In high school at Marietta  
He was into all the sports  
Now the ladies at the matches  
Love him in his wrestling shorts!

His handsome face and muscles  
Get noticed wherever he may go  
With his Elvis looks and sideburns  
He could be on "90210"!

Marcus started wrestling in Georgia  
About four years ago  
And now he's the top WCW rookie  
As we all well know!

He has belts from Georgia All-Star  
And wins from Global to his credit  
He seems destined for the top someday  
And you better not forget it!

Since his first title win 'gainst Steve Lawler  
Back in Georgia All-Star  
One thing has been very clear  
Marcus Bagwell is going to go far!

When he came to WCW  
He was personally trained by Sting  
And in his first few matches  
He was taken under his wing.

Now he's flying on his own  
He'll be on top sooner or later  
He's taking on all sorts of foes  
From jobbers to Van Vader!

There's been feuds with the dangerous Alliance  
And the Taylor-Made Man  
But if anyone can come back from this  
Then surely Bagwell can!

He uses the "yellow-jacket" suplex  
His drop-kicks are the best yet  
And when his matches are over and done  
He drives off in his white Corvette!

---

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## Mat Memories

By JOHN AREZZI

Do you remember your first live wrestling event? The very first time you attended a card? I most certainly do. It was the event I had waited for from the time I first became a fan (around 1963-64), to the time I tried to attend my first match in 1967 (and wasn't let in), until that exciting night in August, 1971, when I was finally able to witness live pro wrestling.

Let me back track to 1967. I was ten years old, and after much pleading, convinced my father to take me to Madison Square Garden. The Main Event was a 2 out of 3 falls match between Gorilla Monsoon and Bruno Sammartino. I also remember a special grudge match being booked between Smasher Sloan and referee Jack Davis. At that time I was not aware of the NY State Law that barred children under 14 from attending pro wrestling. My dad convinced a friend to come, who brought his two kids, one of whom was my best friend, the other was my friends sister, who was only seven years old.

After purchasing the seats, we went to the turnstiles, and were told we couldn't get in because of our ages. It was a heartbreaking night. I remember holding back my tears until I got home, where I cried most of the night. I tried to convince my dad to take me to another match as soon as I turned 14, but he wasn't a fan, and turned me down. (In fact, I did take him to a match in 1972, and he fell asleep!)

It was frustrating. I was 14, now eligible to go to wrestling, and had no one to go with me. And I was not allowed to travel to New York City by myself.

During the summer of 1971, I spent the night at a friends' who was having a sleep over party in his back yard. There were about ten kids there. During the party I met a fellow wrestling fan, Frank Favale. Someone had mentioned wrestling and my ears perked up, as did Franks. I couldn't believe I had met another fan of wrestling. At that time no one my age admitted to watching it. Frank had mentioned that his father and grandfather had taken him to the last two Madison Square Garden shows, and that they had planned on going again. Frank invited me to go with his family to the show.

I'll never forget walking into The Garden to see the show. I was like a kid in a candy store, smiling from ear to ear. The stars on that card featured the Kangaroos, Chief Jay Strongbow, Victor Rivera, Luke Graham and Tarzen Tyler (then WWWF Tag Team Champions). The Main Event was between Stan Stasiak and WWWF Champ, Pedro Morales. That Main Event ended in a draw, leading up to a return match.

What I'll remember most was the excitement of the crowd. They were in an absolute frenzy during the entire card. It was easy to get caught up in it.

That night in August, started a streak for me of attending every single Garden show for the next six years after that, until 1977.

Frank Favale and I started drifting apart when I started college. But, I thank him again today in this column for inviting me to my first live wrestling show. It was a major event in my life, which has led to who I've become today.

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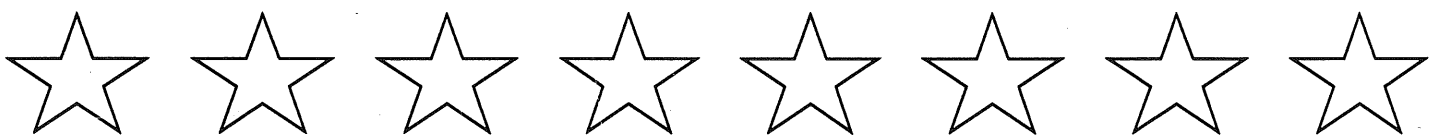
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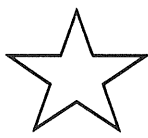


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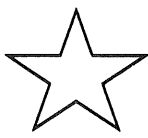
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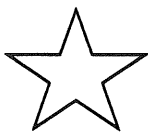
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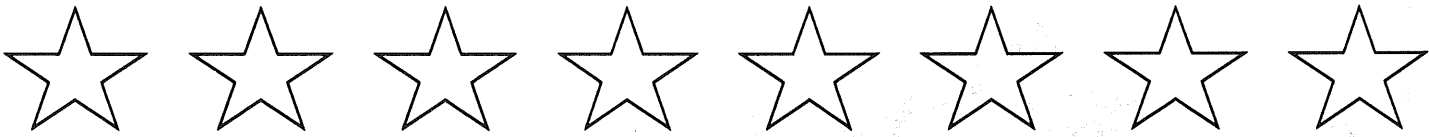
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Eddie Gilbert & Madusa Micelli vs.  
Cactus & Luna  
The Original Sheik vs. Abby, Sullivan & Funk

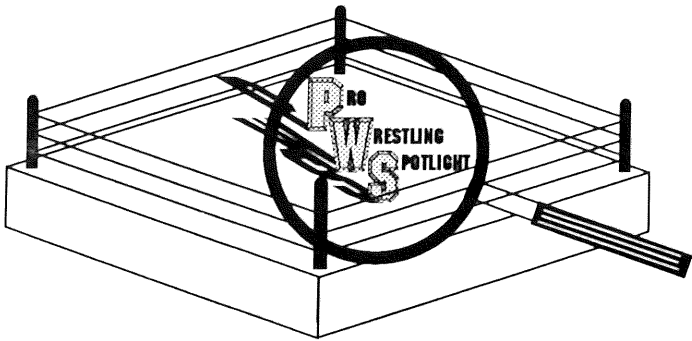
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